



Department of Justice

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KOKOMO MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced that Michael Shane Bates, 47, Kokomo, Ind., was sentenced to 97 months in prison today by U.S. District Judge Tanya Walton Pratt following his guilty plea to receiving child pornography. This case was the result of an investigation by the Kokomo Police Department and United States Postal Inspection Service.

On September 21, 2010, a search warrant was served at Bates' residence in Kokomo, Ind. Prior to September 21, 2010, Bates was online in an adult dating chatroom. While chatting with an adult female who lived in another state, Bates discussed whether she wanted to see images of nude female minors. The female engaged Bates in a chat for about three hours learning his name, other identifiers and his employment in Kokomo. Bates sent the female numerous images of nude images of minors. The adult female then turned the information over to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and law enforcement who determined Bates' identity and location. Bates was in possession of approximately 2000 images of nude children, some which showed adults performing sex acts on them. Bates had no prior criminal history and the investigation did not find any minors at the detention facility who had been harmed by Bates during his employment.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Gayle L. Helart, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Walton Pratt also imposed lifetime supervised release following Bates' release from prison. During the period of supervised release, Bates must not have unsupervised contact with any minor without permission and may not possess any nude images of children or adults. Bates was fined in the amount of \$1000.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal,

state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafecchildhood.gov.

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